

ACTS

“...there's a sense in which these two chapters [10 & 11] are among the most important chapters in the entire New Testament in an understanding of what the nature of God's purpose in this world is and in our understanding of what the church is, and of what the mission of the church ought to be.”
Derek Thomas

- The Persecution of The Church

- Philip

- Who were the Samaritans

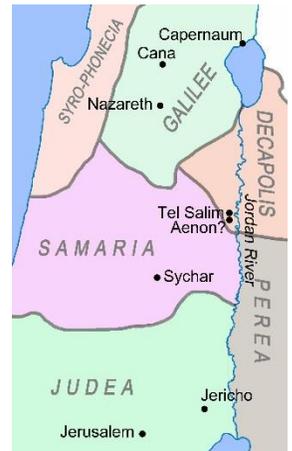
- A false professor?

- The Ethiopian

- Saul

- Miracles

- Cornelius (no turning back)



Dig Deeper

1. Who were the Samaritans? What was their relationship with the Jews in Palestine? (Acts 8:5-8)
2. In Acts 9:1–9, Saul learns firsthand how closely Jesus identifies with his church, here described as “the Way.” In persecuting those of the Way, Saul is persecuting Christ himself. In response to his question, “Who are you?” Saul would surely prefer any response to the one he receives: “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” What do Jesus’ words in Acts 9:4 imply about his relationship with the church?
3. Peter does not initially understand the meaning of the vision (Acts 10:17), but the Holy Spirit leads him to three Gentiles (Acts 10:17–18). Later, Peter puts all the pieces together (Acts 10:28). What connection is God making for Peter between the unclean animals in the vision and Cornelius and his household?
4. In the story of Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10:1–48), we see one of the most revolutionary features of the good news: its demolition of the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. The story of the conversion of Cornelius is the longest narrative in the book of Acts. It is a very significant moment in the gospel’s advance, as God is showing that the gospel is for all people, not just the Jews. How is this part of the continued fulfillment of Jesus’ words in Acts 1:8?
5. How would you define “the church”? How is the New Testament church different than God’s people in the Old Testament?